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NIH-Backed Study Reveals Covid Masks Expose People to Toxic Chemicals

Patrick Webb (https://theleadingreport.com/author/adminwebb/) August 28, 2023 (https://theleadingreport.com/2023/08/)

0 (https://theleadingreport.com/2023/08/28/nih-backed-study-reveals-covid-masks-expose-people-to-toxic-chemicals/)

Growing worries about the effects of extensive masking on health are being expressed as Democratic President Joe Biden's administration gets ready to reinstate mask mandates.

The Biden White House asserts that mask requirements aid in the defense against the purported threat posed by recently discovered Covid variants.

The Biden administration is apparently preparing to mandate mask use once more despite the fact that the pandemic is over and there hasn't been an uptick in Covid-related deaths.

But according to a research that Biden's National Institutes of Health (NIH) surreptitiously released again earlier this year, the masks might expose users to harmful quantities of hazardous substances.

Researchers from South Korea's Jeonbuk National University examined a number of washable cotton masks as well as two other disposable medical-grade mask kinds.

The investigation discovered that the toxic volatile organic compounds (TVOCs) emitted by these masks were eight times the recommended safety level.

Headaches and nausea have been connected to inhaling TVOCs as health problems.

Organ damage and possibly cancer have been linked to prolonged and repetitive exposure to TVOCs.

“It is clear that particular attention must be paid to the VOCs associated with the use of KF94 [medical] masks and their effects on human health,” the researchers wrote in the study (https://www.cell.com/heliyon/pdf/S2405-8440(23)01324-5.pdf) published in April.

However, there are ways to reduce the danger, they said.

“Exposure can be significantly reduced if a mask is opened and left to sit for at least 30 min,” the researchers wrote.

This suggests that the packaging of these masks could play a role in the amount of chemicals they have.

The study was published (https://www.cell.com/heliyon/pdf/S2405-8440(23)01324-5.pdf) in the journal Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety and on the NIH’s website.

The NIH said: “Inclusion in an NLM database does not imply endorsement of, or agreement with, the contents by NLM or the National Institutes of Health.”

The researchers found that the levels of TVOCs were 14 times lower in cloth masks and didn’t pose a risk to human health.

However, the study did not measure the effect of people actually wearing the masks.

Dr. Stuart Fischer, an internal medicine physician in New York, warns that increasing evidence has shown the drawbacks of mask-wearing.

“There seems to be diminishing returns on the need for masks,” Fischer argues.

In the latest study, researchers tested 14 disposable and cloth masks purchased online.

They measured the amount of TVOCs in each mask and compared the results.

The disposable masks were KFAD and KF94 models, which were made from thermoplastics polypropylene and polyurethane nylon.

These masks have been popularized in South Korea, where the study was conducted, whereas KN95s are more popular in the US.

However, their differences are miniscule.

KFADs and KF94s filter 94 percent of particles, while KN95s filter 95 percent.

The cloth masks were made from cotton, ramie – a vegetable fiber – and polyurethane.

“These TVOC concentration levels corresponded to a level that is harmless to the human body (no relevant health-related concerns),” the researchers wrote.

However, the disposable masks contained up to 14 times the TVOCs than cotton masks.

Biden’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends keeping TVOC levels below 0.5 parts per million in indoor air.

However, the sample with the highest amount of TVOCs had 4,808 cubic meters per microgram, which is about 4.8 parts per million.

That’s more than eight times the recommended limit.

TVOCs are a large group of odorous chemicals, many of which are released by cleaning and beauty products, burning fuel, and cooking.

Sources of TVOCs in the home include aerosol sprays, cleansers and disinfectants, moth repellents, air fresheners, and automotive products.

Other sources include building materials and furnishings, office equipment such as copiers and printers, permanent markers, correction fluids, carbonless copy paper, and craft materials including glues and adhesives.

According to the American Lung Association (ALA), TVOCs have been shown to irritate the eyes, nose, and throat, cause difficulty breathing and nausea, and damage the central nervous system and organs like the liver.

Some are even known to cause cancer in humans and have been linked to infertility, stillbirths, and miscarriages.

The researchers specifically flagged the chemicals dimethylacetamide (DMAc) and dimethylformamide (DMF) for being linked to liver and reproductive damage.

The team acknowledged that the sample size was small and that they did not test several other popular disposable masks like KN95s.

The study builds off previous research suggesting that mask-wearing could cause more harm than good.

A peer-reviewed study (https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006207.pub6/full) conducted by the Cochrane Institute, for example, suggested that face masks made “little

to no difference" in Covid infections and deaths, as Leading Report previously reported.

The researchers said harms caused by masking, including hampering children's schooling, were poorly measured in the studies promoting mask use.

The study concluded that any small benefit on infection rates was massively outweighed by the health risks of mask use.

Another study (https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02618-5#ref-CR2) also found that wearing face masks raises the risk of stillbirths, testicular dysfunction, and cognitive decline in children.

Though the findings of the NIH-backed study were published in April, the findings have renewed relevance as the corporate media rolls out a new fear campaign as Covid variant BA.2.86 spreads across the U.S.

Several universities, hospitals, and even the Hollywood studio Lionsgate have reinstated mask mandates amid the surge.

But the newly found dangers of masks typically considered the most protective could make mask mandates ineffective.

"It's not clear yet if we need the sweeping edicts of three years ago," Dr. Fischer said in response to reports that the Biden admin is bringing back mask mandates.

"Extreme fears about the lethality of Covid may have led to decisions that were counterproductive.

"We desperately need policies that do not fracture our society while providing minimal protection."

SOURCES: MASK TOXICITY STUDY (https://www.cell.com/heliyon/pdf/S2405-8440(23)01324-5.pdf), MASK EFFECTIVENESS STUDY (https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006207.pub6/full), STILLBIRTH STUDY (https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02618-5#ref-CR2)

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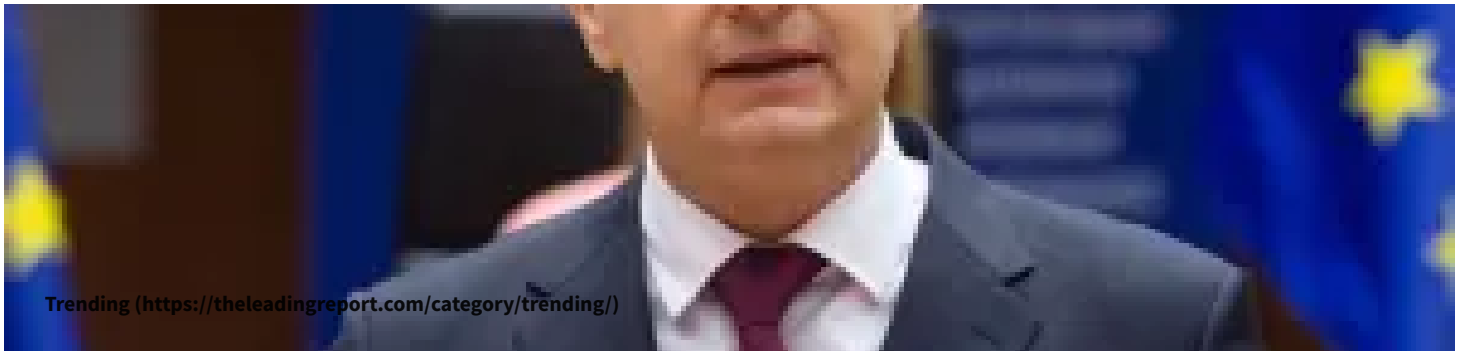

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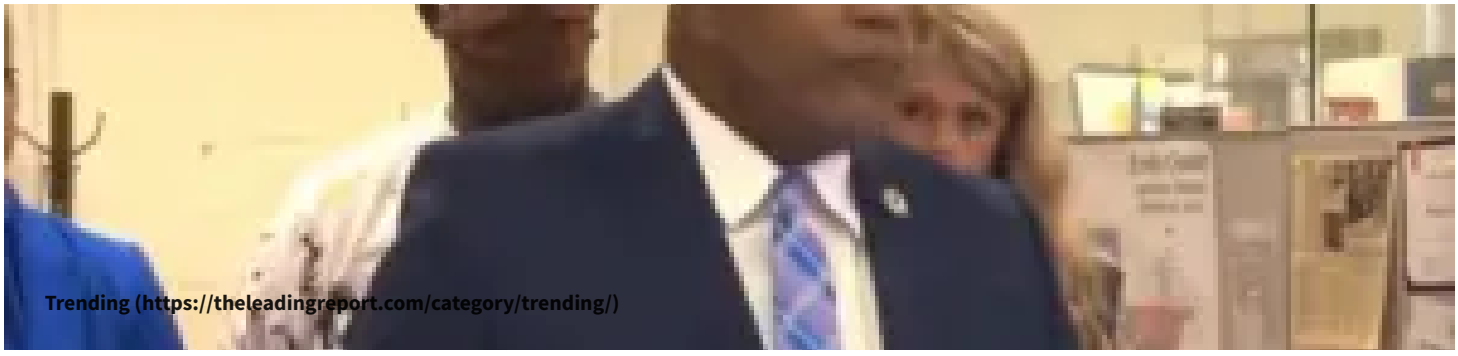

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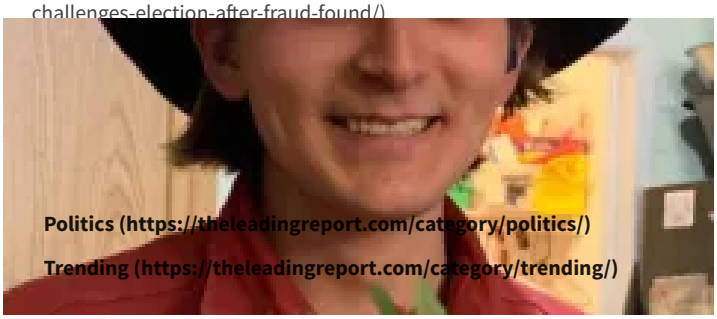

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